

# Spiritan Magazine

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## Church

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There is a church, alive and prosperous, wherever two things come together: people's most pressing concerns and Jesus the Christ.

The church is not about laws, doctrines, morals or politics. These are secondary as are rubrics, popes, priests. The church is about life: ours and God's, as focused in Jesus.

— John Carmody

Converting people is a two-way street: the conversion of the missionary and of the people. We all need a little more conversion — especially those of us in North America. So God is sending all the nations to us.

— Vincent Donovan CSSp

Catholicism is not a religion for the elite: you rub shoulders with saints, sages, hypocrites and cynics; with the generous and the self-seeking; with the cowardly and the courageous; with the compassionate and the insensitive.

— Rosemary Haughton

How does one respond to those who ask why we belong to this imperfect church? My response would be fairly modest, as was Peter's: "Master, to whom shall we go?"

Where else shall I go? Here is where I was born into the community of disciples and where I continue to be nurtured in the faith. Here is where Christ has been mediated to me. Here is where the Spirit has been poured out upon me. Here is where I am in touch with Tradition and rich traditions. Here is where I find the fullness of sacramental life.

— Bishop Kenneth Untener

Religion and spirituality are two sides of the same coin, and they badly need each other ... Trying to go it alone without a faith community seems foolhardy ... We are made for each other. On the other hand, religion that does not nurture people's spirituality is as dead as a doornail.

— Thomas Groome

You don't cease being "a practising member" of the family because for a time you aren't home very much. Families understand this. The church, I believe, needs to be just as understanding.

— Ron Rolheiser OMI

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# U R C H

The joys and the hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the people of this age ... are the joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the followers of Christ.

— Vatican II



We will not be Christians by custom and tradition, but only through our own act of faith attained in a different struggle and perpetually achieved anew.

— Karl Rahner SJ



"Many whom God has the Church does not have."

— St. Augustine

I have listened to a great number of bruised Catholics who find it difficult to understand the "hard line" that so many of us priests take, especially with regard to the reception of the Sacraments. I remember attending a meeting where someone suggested a wider use of general absolution and a more generous attitude towards many of those no longer allowed to receive Holy Communion.

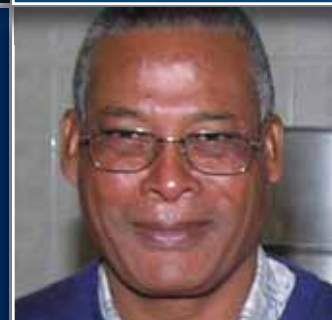
"Good God!" one of those present exclaimed, "If we go down that road our churches will be crammed with sinners every Sunday morning!" ... As one who is familiar with the emotions of those who feel alienated ... what we all want, at the end of the day, is to be welcomed home.

— Daniel O'Leary



The churches are in a counter culture position whether they realize it or not. That puts us much closer to first century Christianity, and that is an opportunity for the Church.

— Gabriel Fackre



The Church I long for is a Church much more aware of its sinfulness and of its need to repent.

A life-giving Church, a Church full of hope and joy, this is what I long for. A church of humility and longing for justice — this is the Church I long for.

A Church living in the Spirit, and praying for the Spirit, is the one I long for.

— Brian Hearne CSSp

We are an Easter people in a Good Friday world.

## Assignment: The Church has died. Write an obituary.

She died in her sleep. Long-term causes of death were: fear of change, narrowing of vision, closed mind and heart, inability to take in fresh air, refusal to avail of modern treatment.

She was a loving mother, a force for good, a champion of the needy, a contributor to learning, a caring home.

"Your Spirit changes our hearts ... your Spirit is at work when understanding puts an end to strife, when hatred is quenched by mercy, and vengeance gives way to forgiveness."

— Eucharistic Prayer for Reconciliation



I love this Church, this living, pulsing, sinning people of God. For all the Christian hatred, I experience here a community of love. For all the institutional idiocy, I find here a tradition of reason. For all the individual repressions, I breathe here an air of freedom. For all the fear of sex, I find here the redemption of my body. In an age so inhuman, I touch here tears of compassion. In a world so grim and humorless, I share here rich joy and healthy laughter. In the midst of death, I hear an incomparable stress on life. For all the apparent absence of God, I sense here the real presence of Christ.

— Walter Burghardt SJ